

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 13 is cancelled by this response for reasons unrelated to this rejection, but nevertheless the cancellation of claim 13 renders this rejection moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 12-18, and 20 on prior art grounds on pages 2 - 8 of the Official Action. The Examiner's rejections are not consistent with either the "Disposition of Claims" on page 1 of the Official Action, nor are they consistent with the Examiner's observations in paragraph 8 on page 8 of the Official Action. It is assumed that the Examiner meant to indicate that claims 9, 10 and 19 were directed to allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended. Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 7 (and also to recite that the slave lasers are injection locked). Claim 7 was rejected on prior art grounds (DeLoach). That rejection is respectfully traversed. DeLoach's phase correction feedback signal is applied to a phase shifter that is separate from the slave lasers. DeLoach does disclose adjusting the bias of the slave lasers as a means to adjusting their gain (automatic gain control) and their output level; see column 3 lines 26-30 of DeLoach. But it is respectfully submitted that DeLoach does not disclose adjusting the phase of the slave lasers "by a bias current or voltage which is applied to each slave laser for adjusting the phase thereof relative to other slave lasers" as claimed. Applicant's approach of using the laser bias to adjust the phase is described in page 10, lines 16-22. Claim 1, as amended, and original claim 7 are patentable over DeLoach, as are the claims which depend from amended Claim 1.

Claim 14 is amended to included the subject matter of dependent claim 15. Claim 15 was rejected on prior art grounds (DeLoach). That rejection is respectfully traversed. DeLoach does not mention steering of the optical beam.

The Examiner asserts incorrectly that DeLoach “inherently” teaches beam steering. The Applicant disagrees, and since the Examiner’s assertion is a factual assertion, the affidavit required by the rules of practice is respectfully requested. See 37 CFR 1.104. Since there is no hint of adjusting the relative phases of the slave lasers in DeLoach for beam steering, how is any beam steering supposed to occur? It is respectfully submitted that DeLoach teaches how to keep the high power lasers in phase with one another as opposed to “individually phase controlling the slave lasers of the plurality of slave lasers in order to steer the optical beam” as claimed.

Claim 19, which was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, has been re-written in independent format. Claim 19 should now be in condition for allowance.

New Claim 21 corresponds to Claim 10 as originally filed, which was identified by the Examiner as being allowable. As such, Claim 21, and the claims which now depend therefrom, including Claims 7, 22 and 24-25, should be in Condition for Allowance.

New Claim 23 is dependent on amended Claim 1 and recites “adjusting the phase of one slave laser relative to other slave lasers in said plurality of slave lasers causes the single output beam of the optical frequency modulated transmitter to be steered” which further distinguishes it from the cited art.

New Claim 26, which is patterned after original Claim 17, is written as dependent upon Claim 18 instead.

Claims 6, 12 and 13 have been cancelled to help reduce the amount of the official fees due at this stage.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Paragraph 0043 of the specification is amended to refer to a "phased array" as opposed to "phase array" to correct an obvious editorial error. Note the use of "phased array" in the preceding paragraph. Also, this paragraph in the published version of this application contains an error: in line 4, "four" should have been reproduced as "for".

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

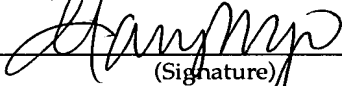
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08 November 2006

(Date of Transmission)

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(Signature)

08 November 2006

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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